



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

October 25, 2000

Mr. Solomon B. Watson IV, General Counsel
The New York Times Company
229 West 43rd St
Legal Dept.
New York, NY 10036

RE: MUR 5117

Dear Mr. Watson:

The Federal Election Commission received a complaint which indicates that The New York Times Company may have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"). A copy of the complaint is enclosed. We have numbered this matter MUR 5117. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence. This matter was not forwarded to you earlier due to an administrative oversight.

Under the Act you have the opportunity to demonstrate in writing that no action should be taken against The New York Times Company in this matter. Please submit any factual or legal materials which you believe are relevant to the Commission's analysis of this matter. Where appropriate, statements should be submitted under oath. Your response, which should be addressed to the General Counsel's Office, must be submitted within 15 days of receipt of this letter. If no response is received within 15 days, the Commission may take further action based on the available information.

This matter will remain confidential in accordance with 2 U.S.C. § 437g(a)(4)(B) and § 437g(a)(12)(A) unless you notify the Commission in writing that you wish the matter to be made public. If you intend to be represented by counsel in this matter, please advise the Commission by completing the enclosed form stating the name, address and telephone number of such counsel, and authorizing such counsel to receive any notifications and other communications from the Commission.

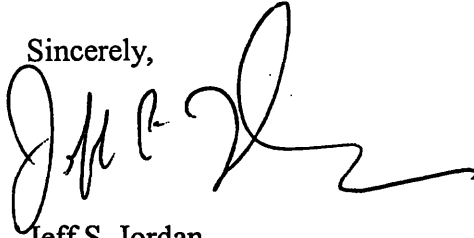
Your case may be eligible for processing in the FEC's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. To be considered for ADR processing, i.e., negotiation and/or mediation, you must:

- 1) indicate a willingness to have your case submitted to the ADR process;
- 2) agree to participate in bilateral negotiations and, if necessary, mediation; and
- 3) waive the statute of limitations while the matter is being processed under the FEC's ADR program.

If the Respondent affirmatively agrees to engage in ADR, each complaint will be evaluated on its merits to determine whether it is appropriate for processing in the ADR program. Further information about the FEC's ADR program is provided in the enclosed booklet. If, after reviewing the booklet, you would like your matter to be considered for possible ADR processing, you must affirmatively indicate that desire on the enclosed form and return it together with your response to this letter. Failure to respond affirmatively will be taken as a notice of disinterest in the program and your case will be dropped from further consideration for ADR. In that event, your case will be pursued by the Commission's Office of General Counsel. If you have questions about the ADR program please contact the ADR office at 202-694-1670.

For you information, we have enclosed a brief description of the Commission's procedures for handling complaints. If you have any questions concerning the complaint, please contact Donald E. Campbell at 202-694-1650 or toll free at 800-424-9530.

Sincerely,



Jeff S. Jordan
Supervisory Attorney
Central Enforcement Docket

Enclosures:

1. Complaint
2. FEC Complaint Procedures
3. Designation of Counsel Statement
4. ADR Booklet
5. ADR Commitment Statement

1850-404-40-42